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SOURCE Izgrev, No 1567, 1949.LISTS RESOLUTIONS OF CENTRAL CO-OP UNION CONGRESS

The main objectives of the present cooperative movement, as defined by the Second Congress of the Central Cooperative Union held on 30 October, are (1) promote the industrialization of the country, (2) modernize backward agriculture, and (3) reorganize trade, with special attention to close economic collaboration between workers and farmers. A well organized purchasing agency is essential for the proper supply of agricultural goods to the city and rural population. Small-scale production in rural areas must merge with the socialized national economy and form the link between individual and socialized production, the latter assuring its proper control and distribution.

These objectives can be attained only when bourgeois and capitalist principles, still prevailing in the organization, are definitely eliminated. Under the fascist regime a large sector of cooperative enterprises was weakened and corrupted by vicious bureaucratic methods, splitting the cooperatives and setting them against each other. In spite of these handicaps, the movement has made substantial progress. At present it comprises 73 district organizations and 4,500 cooperatives with 1,200,000 members. However, the fight against capitalist tendencies has not been conducted with determination; a large section has still not followed the directives of the Bulgarian Communist Party. The slogan about "independent" cooperatives is an outcome of this deviation; the irresponsible leaders of numerous enterprises are not serving the interests of producers and consumers, but continue to work under the old capitalist principles and are struggling to obtain an economic monopoly. The big profits are employed in speculation and black-market operations.

On the other hand, many cooperatives conduct their business in a careless way: valuable goods, such as barrels and boxes, are destroyed by careless handling. Some cooperatives favor certain producers and buy their products indiscriminately; others corner entire products and form monopolies paying large profits; and some have become sinecures for bureaucrats and parasites.

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There is, furthermore, no free exchange of goods. Speculators buy up agricultural surpluses and exchange them for industrial goods at excessive rates. The fruit and vegetable business is entirely in the hands of this monopoly which takes high commissions for its services.

The central and local unions have established a wide net of branches and suborganizations with a large staff of officials, directors, etc. The Central Cooperative Union alone has 14 administrative offices with 1,600 employees. In spite of this vast and complicated organization, purchasing is largely conducted without plan and necessary preparation. Enemy, anti-Soviet personnel has not been eliminated, and new personnel has not been trained to take over.

Under these conditions, "Traychokostovism" has found a fertile breeding ground and all sorts of nationalist and subversive elements have infiltrated the organization. It is, therefore, most essential to learn from the pattern set by the USSR. A delegation of the Central Cooperative Union has spent several months in the Soviet Union and is soon expected to put the acquired experience to use in the Bulgarian organizations. The June plenary session of the Bulgarian Communist Party, under the leadership of Dr V. Chervenkov, has drawn up an important plan for the complete reorganization of the cooperative movement. The plan will provide for the purchase of surpluses at prices and on conditions already agreed upon by agricultural producers and will be directed against bureaucracy and intermediary profits.

The main resolutions passed by the Second Cooperative Congress were the following: (1) Cooperative organizations are the basis of socialist economy and it is erroneous to consider them independent elements. (2) Small producers in rural areas must be incorporated into the socialized economic organizations and their production brought under state control. (3) Cooperatives, which are primarily mass organizations of consumers, must also include producers. Cooperation must become the front line of contact between the working classes and the rural population. (4) Elections for the administrative body must be open to all members. (5) The cooperatives, as a part of the national economic system, must participate in all economic activities, such as sowing campaigns and the collecting and purchasing of agricultural surplus and quota goods. (6) Subversive and nationalist tendencies must be ruthlessly eliminated. Bourgeois-reactionary reformism, the erroneous interpretation of independence, "Traychokostovism," and other kulak ideologies which still exist in this sector can no longer be tolerated. (7) Conservation and economy measures must be strictly maintained over property, stocks, and equipment. Corruption, theft, and abuses are to be severely prosecuted. Misappropriation of cooperative property will be treated in the same way as government property. Furthermore, Bulgarian cooperatives must join organizations in other people's democracies and take an active part in the International Cooperative Union and its peace campaign.

A reorganization of business methods is also essential. The following resolutions have therefore been adopted: (1) The Congress will establish a new board of administration composed of members devoted to the cause of the Fatherland Front, the party, and the central and local cooperative unions. (2) Central unions will be reorganized and simplified. Planning and statistical services of the central and local unions will be enlarged and strengthened. Duplication and discrepancies in unions and individual cooperatives will be eliminated by the election of a single administration for the local union, with representatives and deputies in every cooperative. (3) Every organization will check its personnel and will dismiss alien and subversive elements. The training of new personnel must be conducted simultaneously with this action; women and youth groups must be incorporated in greater numbers.

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The experience of Soviet organizations will be more closely followed. (4) The old formalistic system of reporting and accounting will be changed; cooperatives will be directly represented by active members elected by the entire cooperative body and trusted by the local population. (5) Control of the central and local unions will be strengthened and overhauled, accounting and reporting improved, supervisory discipline improved, and the principle of centralization strictly observed.

Production and commercial reorganization will run mainly along the following lines: (1) According to principles set by the party's June plenary session, the cooperatives will purchase agricultural goods and will assure a correct distribution of these goods. (2) Purchasing under contract will be a fundamental form of operation. Profits and commissions for fictitious services will be eliminated. Profit, generally speaking, no longer will be a decisive factor in cooperative operations. (3) The purchase of surplus goods will be based on percentage rates established in proportion to quality standards. Competitive methods will be introduced in every phase of daily work. (4) To simplify operations, no written documents will be required from producers selling on the free market, and taxes can not be passed on to producers. (5) Cooperatives will be important channels for savings. Organizations must not rely on government credits, but must use funds accumulated from savings and share payments. In order to attract investments, the population must be further educated in cooperative work. The extent of investments must be kept in complete secrecy and undue revelations severely prosecuted. (6) Help must be given farmers desirous of modernizing and mechanizing production. (7) Farm workers' cooperatives must organize their work so as to make full use of all local resources (including industrial waste), save material and equipment, and improve standards and services. Strict controls must be maintained in this direction. Accurate accounting services and special technological assistance are necessary in local unions and farm workers' cooperatives. Advisory committees will give needed assistance and promote efficiency. (8) Warehouses must be organized and equipped to maintain high standards of hygiene and to assure efficient operations. The needs and trends of the public must be carefully studied to keep the organizations well informed of actual requirements.

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